

Claims 1 through 13 were finally rejected under 35 U.S.C 103 as being unpatentable over the Bruchmann et al reference (U.S. Patent 6,617,413). Applicants respectfully submit that the reference does not fairly suggest the claimed invention.

The present invention is directed to a non-aqueous, dual-cure composition comprising:

- a) from about 5 to about 85% by weight of a blocked (cyclo)aliphatic polyisocyanate prepared by
 - i) reacting a hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylate with an organic (cyclo)aliphatic polyisocyanate with an NCO to OH equivalent ratio of from about 1.5:1 to about 3:1, with the resultant partially blocked isocyanate having an isocyanate group content of from about 5 to about 13% by weight, and wherein said organic polyisocyanate is selected from the group consisting of uretdione-containing, biuret-containing, isocyanurate-containing and urethane-group containing polyisocyanates, and
 - ii) reacting the remaining isocyanate groups with a blocking agent,
- b) from about 5 to about 85% by weight of a hydroxy-functional polymer having an OH number of from about 10 to about 250 and an acid number of from about 0.1 to about 50, with the equivalent ratio of blocked isocyanate groups to hydroxy groups being from about 0.8:1 to about 1.2:1, said hydroxy-functional polymer being selected from the group consisting of saturated polyesters, unsaturated polyesters, and mixtures thereof,
- c) from 0 to about 65% of an ethylenically unsaturated compound selected from the group consisting of ethylenically unsaturated monomers, polymers containing ethylenic unsaturation (other than unsaturated polyesters), and mixtures thereof and
- d) from about 0.1 to about 7.0% by weight of a UV initiator for free-radical polymerization,

PO-7958

- 2 -

said percentages by weight totaling 100%, and with the proviso that if ingredient b) is a saturated polyester, ingredient c) is present in an amount of from about 20 to about 65% by weight.

The reference does not even remotely suggest such a composition. The reference describes a composition that requires an isocyanate (designated as "I"). As specifically described that compound I does contain ethylenically unsaturation (see the definition of R^3 - column 3, lines 21ff). As specifically described compound I must be free from uretdione, biuret or isocyanurate groups (see column 3, lines 8 - 10). The reference also nowhere hints that the isocyanate could be a urethane-group-containing polyisocyanate (see the log list of isocyanates listed in column 3, lines 26 through 54).

The Examiner, recognizing the above deficiency has relied upon the disclosure appearing in column 4, lines 44ff. However, the disclosure relied upon by the Examiner clearly indicates that the isocyanates listed are used in mixtures with compound I (see column 4, line 45 and line 53-54). Nowhere does the reference even remotely hint that the additional isocyanate could be used to prepare compound I. As such the reference does not fairly suggest that an isocyanate containing uretdione, biuret, isocyanurate could or should be reacted with a hydroxy-functional (meth)acrylate with an organic (cyclo)aliphatic polyisocyanate with an NCO to OH equivalent ratio of from about 1.5:1 to about 3:1 and with the resultant partially blocked isocyanate having an isocyanate group content of from about 5 to about 13% by weight.

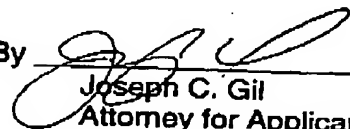
PO-7958

- 3 -

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PO-7958

- 4 -